

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 SAM-01 /093 W

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R 150630Z NOV 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6773

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2352

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINR, MILI, CH, US, UR, CE, IN

SUBJECT: SRI LANKAN NAVY COMMANDER'S VISIT TO PEKING

1. SRI LANKAN EMBASSY HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING ON THE RECENT VISIT OF REAR ADMIREL DON BASIL BOONESEKERA, SRI LANKAN NAVY COMMANDER, TO PEKING.

2. GOONESEKERA'S VISIT WAS BASICALLY NOT A SUBSTANTIVE ONE. THE SOVIETS HAD INVITED GOONESEKERA TO THE SOVIET UNION LAST YEAR, AND THE SRI LANKAN EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE CHINESE INVITATION WAS PRIMARILY A LANANCING MOVE. SRI LANKA HAS RECEIVED SOME NAVAL CRAFT FROM CHINA IN THE PAST, AND THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION THIS TIME ABOUT CHINESE PROVISION OF SPARE PARTS, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE BEYOND THAT OF A CONCRETE NATURE.

3. GOONESEKERA HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH HSIAO CHING-KUANG,  
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COMMANDER OF THE CHINESE NAVY (AND A VICE MINISTER OF NATIONAL

DEFENSE) AND WITH SU YU, VICE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. THERE WAS NOTHING SIGNIFICANT TO REPORT CONCERNING THE FIRST OF THESE DISCUSSIONS OTHER THAN POSSIBILITY THE FACT THAT HSIAO NEVER MENTIONED

THE SOVIETS. THE SRI LANKANS NOTED THIS AND CONSIDERED IT QUITE USUAL, WONDERING IF IT WERE SOME SORT OF NEW SIGN OF THE TIMES.

4. SU YU ALSO STEERED CLEAR OF THIS TOPIC UNTIL THE SRI LANKANS BROUGHT UP THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. SU YU THEN SPOKE OUT QUITE FORCEFULLY ON THE SUBJECT, WARNING THE SRI LANKANS THAT SOCIAL IMPERIALISM (HE NEVER MENTIONED THE SOVIET UNION BY NAME) WAS AN EXTREMELY CLEVER AND FEROCIOUS ENEMY, AND THAT IT IS PRESENTLY IN AN "OFFENSIVE PHASE," EXTENDING ITS INFLUENCE AND POWER INTO PARTS OF THE WORLD IT NEVER HAD DESIGNS ON BEFORE. SU CONTRASTED THIS OFFENSIVE ATTITUDE WITH "COLONIAL IMPERIALISM" WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS BEING ON THE DEFENSIVE WORLDWIDE, MANEUVERING ONLY TO COUNTER SOVIET MOVES RATHER THAN AGGRESSIVELY TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES OF ITS OWN. THE SRI LANKANS READ THIS TO MEAN CLEARLY THAT THE CHINESE BELIEVE SRI LANKA SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED OVER U.S. INTENTIONS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BUT RATHER WITH THOSE OF THE SOVIETS; THE U.S. IS THERE ONLY BECAUSE THE SOVIETS ARE. SU ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT CHINA IS CERTAIN THAT NO SUBCONTINENT COUNTRY WILL "MORTGAGE" ANY OF ITS TERRITORY TO THE SOCIAL IMPERIALISTS. OUR SOURCE TOOK THIS TO MEAN THAT THE CHINESE HAVE RECEIVED SOME SORT OF ASSURANCE FROM INDIA THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT BE GRANTED BASE PRIVILEGES ON INDIAN TERRITORY.

5. SPEAKING OF CHINESE MILITARY MATTERS, SU MADE A STRONG POINT OF THE NECESSITY FOR CHINA TO MOVE AHEAD WITH MODERNIZING ITS MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT; THIS, HE IMPLIED, WAS LONG OVERDUE AND IS A HIGH PRIORITY TASK. ON NAVAL MATTERS, SU POINTED OUT THAT CHINA HAS A COASTLINE OF OVER 7000 MILES AND GREATLY NEEDS TO ENLARGE ITS NAVAL FORCES TO PROTECT IT. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF NEW CONSTRUCTION, AN OBJECTIVE MADE QUITE DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, BY CHINA'S LIMITED SHIPBUILDING FACILITIES AND ITS INADEQUATE INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL BASE. BUT HE IMPLIED THAT THESE ARE DEFICIENCIES THAT ALSO WILL BE SET RIGHT.

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6. A MEMBER OF THE SRI LANKAN PARTY ASKED ONE OF THE CHINESE, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THESE DISCUSSIONS, WHERE SU YU RANKED IN COMPARISON WITH THE OTHER VICE MINISTER(S) OF DEFENSE. THE REPLY WAS IMMEDIATE. AS A MEMBER OF THE PARTY'S MILITARY COMMISSION (MAC), SU YU IS CONSIDERABLY SENIOR TO SUCH PEOPLE AS HSIAO CHING-KUANG.

THE CHINESE WHO MADE THIS COMMENT, AND WHO UNFORTUNATELY WAS UNIDENTIFIED, THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT SU YU IS THE DIRECTOR

OF THE PERMANENT STAFF OR SECRETARIAT OF THE MAC AND HENCE THE  
MAC'S MOST SENIOR PERMANENT STAFFER.  
GATES

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## Message Attributes

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